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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2010

Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Legislator,

As you know, the United States Supreme Court recently issued a decision allowing corporations to spend freely to support or oppose candidates for Congress or President. Allowing corporate money special interests to exercise too much influence over American political campaigns is a shameful step backwards. This change in campaign finance law could give the appearance politicians are subject to the whims of the highest bidder.

Alaskans are proud we've passed some of the strictest state campaign finance laws in the nation. Alaskans want strict accountability on who gives to candidates for public office and they demand full disclosure. We have some of the tightest campaign donation limits in the nation.

I understand there is a very recent legislative legal opinion saying the Alaska statutes might not be enforced following the Supreme Court's decision. There will be no limits on independent expenditures made by for-profit corporations and there will be no statutory disclosures identifying the contributors. There will be no reporting requirements for the corporations.

I urge you to take action this legislative session to ensure Alaska's campaign finance laws remain as strong as they were before the Supreme Court decision. I have pledged to work with my Senate colleagues to pass legislation on the federal level to correct this wrong.

This is not a partisan issue—it affects Alaskans across the political spectrum. Let's work together to correct the Supreme Court's decision.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich  
United States Senator